



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 8, 2005

For immediate release

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**WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT MEETINGS SCHEDULED
FOR IOWA RIVER**

IOWA CITY — The DNR is asking for the help of Iowans in improving the water quality of the Iowa River.

Bacteria levels are threatening the river's ability to support its designated use for primary contact recreation, like swimming. The DNR is asking for your input on how to improve the rivers' water quality at two upcoming public meetings.

Much of the meetings will be dedicated to listening to local residents' concerns and opinions regarding the rivers' water quality. A short presentation on water quality in Iowa will also be offered.

Following are the details of the public input meetings:

Iowa City:

September 14, 9:00 a.m.

Iowa City Water Supply, 2551 N. Dubuque St.

Marengo:

September 14, 7:00 p.m.

Iowa County Fairgrounds, Zentmire Hall

The Iowa River is included on Iowa's 303(d) impaired waters list due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The water quality improvement plan, also called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), will identify potential sources of the bacteria, investigate the severity of the problem, and suggest improvements to the river and land draining to the river that would reduce the amount of bacteria.

The segment of the river included on the impaired waters list runs from the Coralville Dam to the Burlington Street Dam in Iowa City. However, it's necessary to improve water quality in the entire watershed, which covers portions of 13 counties in central and eastern Iowa, to maintain clean water in the river along the impaired segment.

For more information, contact Marian Maas at (515) 281-8143 or by e-mail at marian.maas@dnr.state.ia.us.

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DNR PARTNERS WITH CEDAR RAPIDS TO INSTALL IOWA'S LARGEST SOLAR ARRAY

CEDAR RAPIDS – A dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of the New Bohemia Solar Project will be held Friday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. in Cedar Rapids. The large grouping of solar panels, known as an array, is capable of generating 7,200 watts of electricity and is the largest in the state of Iowa.

“We are proud to see this project to fruition,” said Brian Tormey, chief of the DNR’s Energy and Waste Management Bureau. “Iowa is not necessarily seen as the solar pillar of the nation, so this project is particularly exciting for us.”

The solar array is located on top of the Kouba Building near the corner of Third Street and 10th Avenue in southeast Cedar Rapids. The building is part of a brownfield redevelopment area adjacent to the Downtown Bohemian Commercial Historic District. The array installation was completed earlier this summer through a series of hands-on workshops.

“Not only will the solar array serve as a viable source of energy for Cedar Rapids, but the entire public will also benefit from an interactive solar-powered kiosk near the Kouba Building,” said Tormey.

The kiosk features information about all of the partners involved in the project as well as real-time data for the Cedar Rapids solar arrays.

The New Bohemia Solar Project is a partnership effort between the Iowa DNR, Iowa Renewable Energy Association, Alliant Energy-Interstate Power and Light Company, the City of Cedar Rapids, and the Thorland Company, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Speakers at Friday's event will include: Paul Pate, mayor of Cedar Rapids; Peter Dreyfus, regional director of the U.S. Department of Energy; Tom Aller, president of Alliant Energy; Beverly Hannon, president of the Iowa Renewable Energy Association; Brian Tormey, chief of the Iowa DNR's Energy and Waste Management Bureau; David Chadima of the Thorland Company; and Robert Dana, Iowa Poet Laureate.

For more information, contact Dave Evans with the DNR at (515) 281-6150 or Dave.Evans@dnr.state.ia.us. Electronic photos of the New Bohemia Solar Project are available by contacting Jill Cornell with the DNR at (515) 281-0879 or Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us.

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IOWA DNR AWARDED \$878,299 FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced today that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will provide \$878,299 to the state of Iowa for current DNR energy programs and for three energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funding is being provided through DOE's State Energy Program Special Projects competitive grants and through DOE's formula grant program.

"These federal awards are of great value to Iowa," said Brian Tormey, chief of the DNR's Energy and Waste Management Bureau. "They will provide opportunities to work with Iowa's educational institutions and industries to demonstrate the practicality, feasibility, and benefits of energy conservation and alternative energy generation within the state."

The three special projects being funded are as follows:

Rebuild America (\$100,000)- The DNR will develop a "Community Energy Clean Sweep" program in partnership with a Rebuild Iowa community. The program will develop an action plan to reduce the community's energy use.

Industries of the Future (\$88,688)- This project expands the DNR's current Pollution Prevention Intern Program to Iowa's large energy consuming industrial plants that have energy bills in excess of \$2 million per year. The interns will conduct plant assessments to identify opportunities for energy efficiency assistance and energy savings.

Biomass (\$72,611)- The DNR will work with a Rebuild Iowa community to increase the use and procurement of biomass-based technologies and products. The partnership will help reduce reliance on foreign oil imports into Iowa by decreasing dependence on petroleum-based products.

The state was also awarded a \$617,000 formula grant to fund special projects such as emergency response efforts, the Iowa Energy Bank and energy data collection.

For more information, contact Kelley Myers at (515) 281-4876 or by e-mail at Kelley.Myers@dnr.state.ia.us.

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UPCOMING GEOLOGY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

DECORAH — An upcoming conference co-hosted by the Iowa DNR will explore the geology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley region.

The Great Lakes Section of SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) Fall Field Conference 2005 will be held September 23-25 at the Oaks Steakhouse in Decorah.

The conference includes a charter bus field trip that will visit areas of northeast Iowa to show prominent geological features, including local karst geology and hydrology.

Conference registration includes the field trip, a guidebook of 17 short research papers, Friday evening welcoming reception, and Saturday lunch, snacks, and evening banquet. The Saturday evening banquet speaker is Dr. Chris Holmden from the University of Saskatchewan.

Registration fees are \$50 (professional rate) or \$35 (student rate). Registration deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 14. To pre-register for the conference, visit the conference's Web site at: www.igs.uiuc.edu/gls-sepm/index_conf.html.

This year's field conference is co-sponsored with the Geological Society of Iowa. Financial support for the field conference has been provided from co-sponsorships by the Iowa Limestone Producer's Association, the Iowa Ground Water Association, and the Central Section National Association of Geoscience Teachers. The conference is co-led by:

- Greg Ludvigson, Iowa DNR Geological Survey
- Brian Witzke, Iowa DNR Geological Survey
- Norlene Emerson, University of Wisconsin-Richland
- Michael Bounk, Iowa DNR Geological Survey
- Jean Young, Luther College
- Jeff Dorale, University of Iowa

For more information, contact Greg Ludvigson at gludvig@igsb.uiowa.edu.